

Abstract

A graphical user interface with a selection menu having an inherent color key implemented therein is presented. The selection menu displays a plurality of selectable menu items each associated with different characteristics of possible elements to be displayed in an image rendering space of the display screen. Each menu item is associated with a different unique rendering color. In one embodiment, all possible elements are displayed. In another embodiment, only elements corresponding to selected menu items are displayed, and elements corresponding to unselected items are not displayed. In both embodiments, upon selection of one or more of the menu items, the elements possessing the characteristics associated with the selected menu items are rendered using the different unique rendering color of its associated menu item. Each menu item may be rendered using its associated different unique rendering color regardless of the selection status of the menu item, or alternatively, each menu item may be rendered using a default color if not selected, and using its associated different unique rendering color if selected.